

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00

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O R 060846Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2929

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USDEL RIYADH IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

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CAIRO AND USDEL RIYADH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPCDEL

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN ROYAL DECREE SUMMONS PARLIAMENT TO AMEND
CONSTITUTION

1. SUMMARY: ROYAL DECREE ISSUED NOVEMBER 5 ORDERS SUMMONING
OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR NOVEMBER 9 TO APPROVE AMENDMENT OF
JORDANIAN CONSTITUTION. AMENDMENTS WOULD (1) GIVE KING RIGHT TO
DISSOLVE SENATE (HE ALREADY CAN DISSOLVE HOUSE OF REPTS), AND
2) LENGTHEN THE TIME PROSCRIBED FOR THE RECONVENING OF A DISSOLVED
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOUR MONTHS CURRENTLY STIPULATED
IN CONSTITUTION TO APERIOD AS YET UNSPECIFIED. END SUMMARY.

2. ROYAL DECREE WAS ISSUED NOVEMBER 5 SUMMONING NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION BEGINNING
NOVEMBER 9 FOR APPROVING AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 34 AND 73
OF JORDANIAN CONSTITUTION. (NOTE: RELEVANT SECTION ARTICLE 34
PERMITS KING TO DISSOLVE POPULARLY-ELECTED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
ARTICLE 66 ALLOWS HIM ONLY TO SUSPEND ROYALLY-APPOINTED SENATE IF
HOUSE ALREADY DISSOLVED. ACCORDING TO DAILY AD-DUSTOUR, PROPOSED
AMENDMENT WILL ALLOW KING ALSO TO DISSOLVE SENATE. RELEVANT
SECTION ARTICLE 73 STATES THAT IF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS
DISSOLVED, NEW ELECTIONS SHALL TAKE PLACE, WITH NEW HOUSE CONVENING
NOT MORE THAN 4 MONTHS AFTER DISSOLUTION. IF NO ELECTION, OLD
HOUSE SHALL BE RECONVENED. AGAIN ACCORDING TO AD-DUSTOUR, PROPOSED
AMENDMENT WILL ORDER HOUSE TO CONVENE AFTER PERIOD LONGER THAN
4 MONTHS. (THIS PERIOD AS YET UNKNWON.)

3. ALL JORDANIAN DAILIES REPORT THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS
ALREADY APPROVED DRAFTS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

4. COMMENT: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE FIRST STEPS TO IMPLEMENT
CHANGES IN EAST BANK-WEST BANK COMPOSITION OF PARLIAMENT STEMMING
FROM RABAT DECISIONS AND HINTED AT IN KING HUSSEIN'S OCTOBER 31
SPEECH. SIXTY-MAN, POPULARLY-ELECTED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES) IS EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BANK
REPRESENTATION. THIRTY-MAN SENATE (CHAMBER OF NOTABLES) IS
APPOINTED BY KING AND CURRENTLY INCLUDES MEMBERS FROM BOTH BANKS.
PICKERING

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